

Faye



## North Dakota Association of Rural Electric Cooperatives

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June 9, 2003

Rep. Earl Pomeroy  
1110 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Rep. Pomeroy,

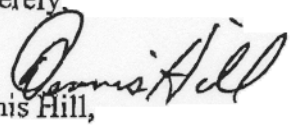
On behalf of the North Dakota Association of Rural Electric Cooperatives, I want to extend my thanks for the leadership you've been providing in the House of Representatives to help rural health care providers.

There's no doubt that there's a cost crisis in rural health care. That's largely driven by an inequitable and antiquated reimbursement formula that Medicare has been using that assumes health care is more costly in urban areas than it is in rural areas. Your work, with a bipartisan group of House members and Senators, would help provide another \$25 billion over the next 10 years to help equalize Medicare reimbursement payments to rural health care providers.

Again, I just wanted to drop a short note of thanks for your help and leadership in this area. We recognize you and others were very close in getting these dollars for Medicare in the tax package just passed. We commend you for leading again to get this package approved as part of an overall bill on Medicare reform and prescription drug coverage reform. In short, keep up the excellent work.

Please give me a call if you have any comments or questions. I'd be happy to visit with you at your convenience.

Sincerely,

  
Dennis Hill,  
Executive vice president  
and general manager

cc: Stephan Petry, NRECA  
Robert Spencer, Towner County Medical Center

